

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 A-01 ABF-01 SS-15 /029 W

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R 111020Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1975

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 4050

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS FROM AMBASSADOR

ABIDJAN FOR RFBO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AFSP

SUBJ: ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

REF: NIAMEY 4048 (NOTAL)

1. I ASSUME YOU HAVE SEEN NIAMEY 4048 WHICH IS MY RESPONSE TO UNDERSECRETARY EAGLEBURGER'S MESSAGE ON SECURITY. BASIC POINT OF REFTEL IS THAT IN POLICY DECISIONS AND RESOURCES ALLOCATIONS WE HAVE NOT YET COME TO GRIPS WITH ADMINISTRAIVE STRUCTURES WITHIN WHICH WE ARE WORKING IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS NIGER. PROBLEM IS THAT OUR APPROACH TO ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS IS ROOTED IN HABITS OF 60'S AND EARLY 70'S AND IS TODAY TOTALLY INADEQUATE FOR DEMANDS WE ARE MAKING AND WILL BE MAKING IN YEARS TO COME.

2. LATEST ILLUSTRATION OF THIS ASSYMETRY BETWEEN OUR OBJDTIVES AND OUR ACTUAL CAPABILITIES ARE STATE 228752 AND 230093, NOTIFYING US THAT OUR STATE PROGRAMS EXPECTED TO SURVIVE ON FY 76 BUDGET THAT IS 80 PERCENT OF GOING RATE FOR 1975 AND 70 PERCENT OF WHAT WE HAVE REQUESTED. LOGIC OF SUCH A DECISION, PUTTING IT MILDLY, IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND IN CONTEXT OF AGREED US POLICY OF INCREASING FLOW OF ASSISTANCE TO NIGER AND CONSEQUENTLY INEVITABLE EXPANSION IN SIZE OF THIS MISSION, NOT TO MENTION OBVIOUS AND UNCONTESTED FACT
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THAT WE ARE OPERATING IN A COUNTRY WITH HIGH RATE OF

INFLATION AND WHERE COSTS ARE ALREADY UNBELIEVABLY HIGH.

3. IT IS TRUE THAT AID IS BEARING A HEAVY SORE OF COSTS
RELATED TO OUR EXPANSION BUT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO THINK THAT
DEPARTMENT CAN THEREBY PROVIDE LESS. WE HAVE OUTLINED
MINIMUM STATE REQUIREMENTS IN SOME DETAIL IN NIAMEY 3722.
I APPRECIATE BELT-TIGHTENING ARGUMENTS. POINT, HOWEVER,
IS THAT ARBITRARY REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
SIMPLY WILL NOT SQUARE WITH KINDS OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMS
USG HAS IN MIND FOR NIGER THIS YEAR AND IN NEXT FEW YEARS
TO COME. UNLESS STATE BUDGET IS INCREASED TO POINT WHERE
WE CAN PROVIDE MINIMALLY ACCEPTABLE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
FOR PROGRAMS HERE WHILE BEARING STATE'S FAIR SHARE, I BELIEVE
WE MUST SERIOUSLY CONSIDER DEFERRING FOR AT LEAST YEAR FURTHER
INCREASES IN US DIRECT-HIRE AND CONTRACT PERSONNEL AND INITIATION
OR IMPLEMENTATION OF CEREALS PROJECT AND OTHER LONG-RANGE ASSISTANCE
EFFORTS IN CONNECTION WITH SAHEL DEVELOPMENT WHILE WE BUILD UP
OUR ADMINISTRATIVE BASE AND BUDGET.HECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NIAMEY04050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750354-0937
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751059/aaaacawt.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NIAMEY 4048
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
TAGS: PFOR, AFSP, EAID, NG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006